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**DeNUCCI SAYS TRIAL COURT MAKING PROGRESS
IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci reported today that the Administrative Office of the Trial Court has made substantial progress in its implementation of the \$75 million computerized system known as MassCourts.

The MassCourts project is a comprehensive case management system that, when fully implemented, will enable the courts to more effectively manage their caseloads by sharing information and tracking cases as they proceed through the judicial system. The project was funded by a \$75 million bond issue, of which more than \$70 million has already been spent.

According to DeNucci's report, the MassCourts project is progressing in a "systematic and efficient manner" in the District Court Department, Boston Municipal Court, Probation Department, Land Court and Housing Court Department.

Areas that still need strengthening, according to DeNucci's audit, include monitoring and evaluation of information technology functions; system access security, such as stronger password procedures to protect against breaches of confidential case information; inventory controls to ensure that IT resources, including more than 6,000 work stations located throughout the Trial Court, are properly accounted for; and procedures for ensuring the continuity of operations for various court locations in the event of a disaster.

"The success of MassCourts is essential to the fair and effective administration of justice in Massachusetts," said DeNucci. "While there is still work to be done, I commend the Trial Court for the progress it has made to date in implementing this very important project."